Chapter 4: Geographic Entities

Overview

The 1995 TIGER/Line® files contain the boundaries of legal, administrative, and statistical areas. Some boundaries are those that were in effect as of the tabulation of the 1990 census, while others are updated boundaries.

The legal areas shown in the files are:

- States and their statistical equivalents—1990 and current
- Counties and their statistical equivalents—1990 and current
- Minor civil divisions (MCDs) —1990 and current
- Sub-minor civil divisions (Puerto Rico only)—1990 and current
- Consolidated cities—current only
- Incorporated places—1990 and current
- American Indian reservations (both federally and state-recognized)—1990 and current
- American Indian trust lands—current only
- Alaska Native Regional Corporations—current only
- Congressional districts—current only

The administrative areas shown in the files are:

- Voting districts—1990 only
- School districts—current only
- Traffic analysis zones—current only

The statistical areas included in the files are:

- Census areas (statistical county equivalents in Alaska)—1990 and current
- Census county divisions and unorganized territories (statistical county subdivisions)—1990 and current
- Census designated places (statistical place equivalents)—1990 and current
- Place (remainder) entities (statistical place equivalents within consolidated cities)
- American Indian/Alaska Native statistical areas—1990 and current
  1) Alaska Native village statistical areas
  2) Tribal designated statistical areas
  3) Tribal jurisdiction statistical areas
- Census tracts and block numbering areas—1990 only
- Urbanized areas—1990 only

- Metropolitan areas:
  1) Consolidated metropolitan statistical areas—current only
  2) Metropolitan statistical areas—current only
  3) Primary metropolitan statistical areas—current only

Geographic entities tabulated by the Census Bureau generally are hierarchical; Figure 4-1 shows the progression of geographic areas from the Nation to the block level. See Appendix F for a count of legal, administrative, and statistical entities.

The TIGER/Line® files identify geographic areas using either the Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) codes or Census Bureau-assigned codes. The TIGER/Line® files depict geographic areas in two ways:

- The assignment of codes to the left and the right sides of the complete chains (Record Types 1 and 3)
- The identification of codes that belong to each GT-polygon (Record Types A and S)

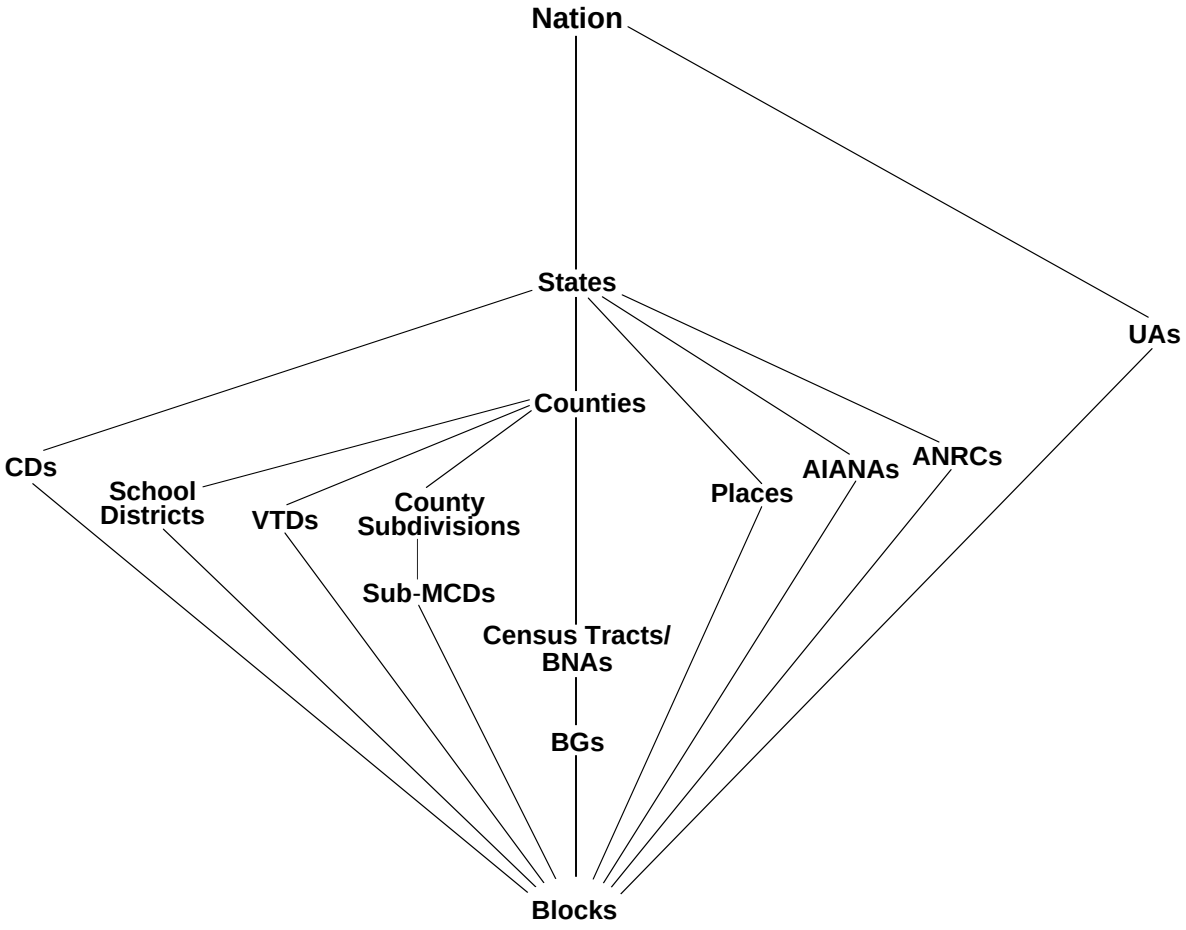
The TIGER/Line® files identify some geographic entities in both the complete chain and polygon records for certain boundary vintages. This chapter provides detailed information on the record types and fields for the geographic entities.

Boundary and Area Changes

The boundaries identified as current for some legal areas are updated boundaries collected since 1990 as part of the Census Bureau's Boundary and Annexation Surveys, or as part of the 1990 Count Quality Review correction process. The boundaries of all states, all counties and their statistical equivalents, and all minor civil divisions are those that were legally in effect as of January 1, 1995. The boundaries of incorporated places have a varied vintage usually based on the 1990 definition of the incorporated place. Below are general guidelines for the effective date of incorporated place boundaries:

- Boundaries as of January 1, 1995—Population of 5,000 or greater
- Boundaries as of January 1, 1992—Population of 2,500 to 4,999
- Boundaries as of January 1, 1990—Population of less than 2,500

Figure 4-1 ***Hierarchical Relationship of Geographic Entities***



Some incorporated places have boundaries of a date later than those shown in the list on page 4-2. This occurs because special censuses are conducted, counts are updated based on more current boundary information, or Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) information for places is reported later than the deadline. Some boundary dates may be earlier than those shown on page 4-2 because of a nonresponse to the most recent BAS, in which case, the boundaries of the previous BAS are used.

For all other legal areas and nearly all statistical areas, the boundaries shown were those in effect at the time of the 1990 census whether the data are identified as 1990 or current. Because unorganized territories and census designated places occupy the same level of geography as legal MCDs and incorporated places, updates to the legal boundaries may affect the current boundaries for some of these entities, including the elimination of some of the statistical entities. Metropolitan area data on Record Type S, the CMSA and MA fields, were designated by the Office of Management and Budget as of June 30, 1995 and are not the metropolitan areas for which the Census Bureau tabulated data in 1990. The metropolitan area information on Record Type C, however, shows both 1990 and 1995 codes and names. In a few cases, the Census Bureau made statistical area boundary changes in order to correct errors.

Since the release of the 1990 Census TIGER/Line® files, the Census Bureau shifted and reshaped some line features including the lines forming some boundaries. These changes involved the realignment of complete chains associated with a legal or statistical area boundary. The shape and area of the 1990 geographic entities portrayed in the 1995 TIGER/Line® files may differ from earlier TIGER/Line® versions, but the inventory of 1990 census tabulation entities remains the same. Changes in the shape and location of complete chains will change the polygon internal point locations. See the *Internal Points* section in Chapter 3.

Codes for Entities

Appendix A is a list of FIPS state and county codes. A list of valid codes and names for other legal entities does not appear in the documentation for the 1995 TIGER/Line® files.

The 1995 TIGER/Line® files include Record Type C which lists the geographic codes and names plus some attribute data (FIPS 55 class code, census place description code, and legal, administrative, or statistical area description code) for certain entities. The codes and names are identified as 1990, current, or both. Record Type C contains the TIGER/Geographic Name™ files that the Census Bureau produced as a companion to the 1992 TIGER/Line® files. Record Type C also replaces the TIGER Geographic Reference File–Names (GRF-N), 1990.

The documentation and additional information for FIPS codes is available from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), US Department of Commerce, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161. The telephone number is (703) 487-4650. The Internet World Wide Web URL is http://www.nist.gov/itl/csl/fips.

The FIPS publications include:

- *FIPS PUB 5-2*, Codes for Identification of States, the District of Columbia and the Outlying Areas of the United States, and Associated Areas
- *FIPS PUB 6-4*, Counties and Equivalent Entities of the United States, Its Possessions, and Associated Areas
- *FIPS PUB 8-5*, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)—including CMSAs, PMSAs, and NECMAs
- *FIPS PUB 55-3*, Codes for Named Populated Places, Primary County Divisions, and Other Locational Entities of the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Island Territories

The Census Bureau uses the codes in FIPS PUB 55-3 to identify both legal and statistical entities for county subdivisions, places, and American Indian/Alaska Native areas. FIPS PUB 55-3 includes many more entity records than those for which the Census Bureau tabulates data. The FIPS 55 codes are state-based. American Indian reservations in

more than one state will have a different FIPS 55 code for each state portion of the single reservation.

The 1994 and 1995 TIGER/Line® files no longer contain the census codes available in earlier versions of the TIGER/Line® files for places, county subdivisions, and sub-MCDs. A description of the Census Bureau's codes that are assigned to higher-level geographic entities (county subdivisions, sub-minor civil divisions, consolidated cities, and places) appears in the geographic identification coding scheme (GICS) product, TIGER/GICS™. The TIGER/GICS™ contains FIPS and Census Bureau codes, names and attributes, and demographic data for the higher-level geographic entities included in the 1990 census.

Geographic Entities

American Indian/Alaska Native Areas (AIANAs)

The AIANAs are represented in the TIGER/Line® files by a 5-character numeric FIPS code field, a 4-character numeric census code field, a 2-character numeric Census Alaska Native Regional Corporation code field, and a single alphabetic character field. The TIGER/Line® files use multiple fields to identify a series of legal and statistical AIANAs:

Legal Entities

- *American Indian reservations (AIRs)* are legal entities having boundaries established by treaty, statute, and/or executive or court order over which a federally recognized American Indian tribal group has jurisdiction. The areas identified as American Indian reservations include entities with other designations, such as pueblo, colony, and community. AIRs are identified by either the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for federal reservations, or the individual states for state reservations.

- *American Indian trust lands* included in the census are the off-reservation lands associated with a specific tribe or a reservation held in trust by the Federal Government. They are identified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and state governments. Trust lands may be either tribal (held in trust for the tribe) or individual (held in trust for an individual member of the tribe).

Trust lands are assigned the same codes as the associated reservation. Trust lands not associated with a reservation are assigned codes based on the tribal name. The TIGER/Line® files did not previously distinguish between AIRs and trust lands because they shared the same code. Beginning with the 1994 TIGER/Line® files, American Indian trust lands are flagged in a separate field (previously the Census ANRC field).

- *Alaska Native Regional Corporations (ANRCs)* are corporate entities established by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (PL 92-203) to conduct business and nonprofit operations for Alaska Natives. The 12 ANRCs have specific boundaries and cover the state of Alaska except for the Annette Islands Reserve.

Statistical Entities

- *Alaska Native village statistical areas (ANVSAs)* are 1990 census statistical areas that delineate the settled area of each Alaska Native village (ANV). ANVs represent tribes, bands, clans, villages, communities, and associations that are recognized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (PL 92-203), but do not have legally recognized boundaries. Officials of Alaska Native Regional Corporations (ANRCs) and other knowledgeable officials delineated the 1990 ANVSAs for the Census Bureau for the purpose of presenting census data for these entities.

- *Tribal designated statistical areas (TDSAs)* are geographic areas that were delineated for 1990 census data tabulation purposes by tribal officials of federally and state-recognized tribes outside of Oklahoma. TDSAs do not have a legally defined reservation or associated trust lands. They define areas that contain population under tribal jurisdiction and/or areas for which the tribe provides benefits and services. TDSAs are defined for data presentation purposes only.

- *Tribal jurisdiction statistical areas (TJSAs)* are geographic areas delineated for 1990 census data tabulation purposes in Oklahoma by federally recognized tribes that do not have a legally defined reservation. TJSAs are areas defined only for data presentation purposes. They generally contain American Indian population over which one or more tribal governments have jurisdiction. They replace the single "Historic Areas of Oklahoma" (excluding UAs) recognized for the 1980 census.

AIANA Code Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
1	FAIRL	FIPS 55 Code (American Indian/Alaska Native Area), Current Left
1	FAIRR	FIPS 55 Code (American Indian/Alaska Native Area), Current Right
1	TRUSTL	American Indian Trust Land Flag, Left
1	TRUSTR	American Indian Trust Land Flag, Right
3	AIRL	Census American Indian/Alaska Native Area Code, Current Left
3	AIRR	Census American Indian/Alaska Native Area Code, Current Right
3	ANRCL	Census Alaska Native Regional Corporation Code, Current Left
3	ANRCR	Census Alaska Native Regional Corporation Code, Current Right
A	FAIR	FIPS 55 Code (American Indian/Alaska Native Area), 1990
C	ANRC	Census Alaska Native Regional Corporation Code, Year
C	AIR	Census American Indian/Alaska Native Area Code, Year
S	FAIR	FIPS 55 Code (American Indian/Alaska Native Area), Current
S	AIR	Census American Indian/Alaska Native Area Code, Current
S	TRUST	American Indian Trust Land Flag
S	ANRC	Census Alaska Native Regional Corporation Code, Current

AIANA Codes Record Type C shows one record for each AIANA entity, by year. Also, refer to FIPS PUB 55-3 or the Census Bureau's TIGER/GICS™ for a list of valid codes and entity names. The type of AIANA area can be identified either by the census code or by the FIPS 55 class code on each entity record in Record Type C. The range of census codes allocated to each AIANA and the valid FIPS 55 class code(s) associated with each are as follows:

Type	*Census Code Range*	*Valid FIPS 55 Class*
AIR	0001 to 4989	D1, D2, D3, D4, D5
TJSA	5001 to 5989	D6
ANVSA	6001 to 8989	E1, E2, E6
TDSA	9001 to 9589	D6

Block Groups (BGs)

Geographic BGs Block groups are clusters of blocks within the same census tract or BNA; they have the same first digit as their 3-digit block numbers. For example, blocks 101, 102, 103,…, 199 in census tract 1210.02 belong to BG 1. BGs never cross county or census tract/BNA boundaries, but may cross the boundaries of county subdivisions, places, UAs, VTDs, congressional districts, and AIANAs. BGs generally contain between 250 and 550 housing units. Each BG usually covers a contiguous area. Each census tract/BNA contains at least one BG. BGs are uniquely numbered within census tract/BNA.

Tabulation BGs Tabulation block groups are geographic BGs split to present data for every unique combination of county subdivision, place, UA, VTD, congressional district, U/R, and AIANA shown in the data tabulation products.

The TIGER/Line® files do not have a separate BG data field. Data users can determine the geographic BG by using the first digit of the block number, and the tabulation BG by using the geographic BG in combination with the codes for the entities listed above. STF 1A and STF 3A present data for both geographic and tabulation BGs.

Block Group Number Record Locations See the section, *Census Blocks,* in this chapter for record locations and field names. The BG is the compilation of all blocks with the same first digit of their block number in a specific census tract/BNA.

All polygons have a non-blank BG number. The left- and right-side complete chain block numbers should not be blank except where they are located along the outside edge of the county boundary. The TIGER/Line® files do not contain codes for areas outside the county file.

BGs have a valid range of 0 through 9. Some BGs beginning with a 0 are in coastal and Great Lakes water. Rather than extending the census tract/BNA boundary into the Great Lakes or out to the three-mile territorial sea limit, the Census Bureau delineated some census tract/BNA boundaries along the shoreline or just offshore. The Census Bureau assigned

a default census tract/BNA number of 0000 and block number of 099 to the offshore areas not included in regularly numbered census tract/BNA areas.

Census Blocks

Census blocks usually are small statistical areas bounded on all sides by visible features such as streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracks, and by invisible boundaries such as property lines, legal limits, and short imaginary extensions of streets and roads. Blocks never cross county or census tract/BNA boundaries. In rare instances, parts of a block may be discontiguous, but all parts of a tabulation block will be in the same geographic or governmental unit. Blocks are composed of one or more GT-polygons; that is, several GT-polygons can share the same block number. See Figures 4-2 and 4-3.

Census Block Numbers Blocks are numbered uniquely within each census tract or BNA. A census block must be identified by a 3-character basic block number field and a 1-character block suffix field. The suffix field often is blank. The 3-character basic block number identifies the collection block used in the 1990 census field operations. The first digit of the basic block number identifies the BG.

The Census Bureau refers to the combined basic collection block number and suffix (if a suffix exists) as the *tabulation* block number. The 1990 tabulation block numbers identified in Record Types 1, 3, A, and S have a 1-character suffix field.

The suffix character is blank for whole collection blocks that also are tabulation blocks. Block numbers with suffixes usually represent collection blocks that are split in order to identify separate geographic entities that divide the original block. For example, when a city limit runs through collection block 101, the portion inside the city may be tabulated in block 101A and the portion outside the city in block 101B. The suffix letters A and B have no correlation to the location of the block portion to which they are assigned. In other words, in the example above, the portion of block 101 inside the city could have

been assigned a suffix of B, and the portion outside the city, a suffix of A. There is no limit on the number of parts into which a block can be split.

Water Blocks A 3-character basic block number that ends in 99 signifies water area. As there is only one number ending in 99 within a BG, many water polygons can have the same block number. Water blocks have suffixes if parts of the same block are located in different geographic entities.

Rather than extending the census tract/BNA boundary into the Great Lakes or out to the three-mile limit, the Census Bureau closed off some census tract/BNA areas using boundaries along the shoreline or just offshore. The Census Bureau assigned a default census tract/BNA number of 0000 and block number of 099 to the offshore areas.

Water blocks do not appear in the 1990 census STF files. Census maps and other data files do not display the block numbers for water areas. The principal purpose for census block numbers assigned to water areas is to identify all areas of the United States and its territories and to allocate the water areas to geographic entities. Water GT-polygons with the same block number may not be contiguous, but will be in the same geographic area or governmental unit.

Changes to shorelines or boundaries made since the release of the 1990 Census TIGER/Line® files altered or removed block boundary features between parts of some water blocks and changed the block numbers (the BG designator) for those blocks. Because the water blocks had no population or housing, the tabulation of the 1990 census was unaffected. Some water blocks in the 1990 Census TIGER/Line® files Supplemental CD-ROM may contain census block suffixes that do not match subsequent TIGER/Line® files (including 1992, 1994, and 1995 TIGER/Line® files).

Current Geography Record Types 1, 3, A, C, and S identify changes (both codes and boundaries) since the 1990 census tabulation for some geographic entities. These records do not show new block numbers. The Census Bureau continues to conduct its annual Boundary and Annexation Survey to identify changes to the boundaries of legal

Figure 4-2 ***Geographic Relationships—Small Area Statistical Entities***

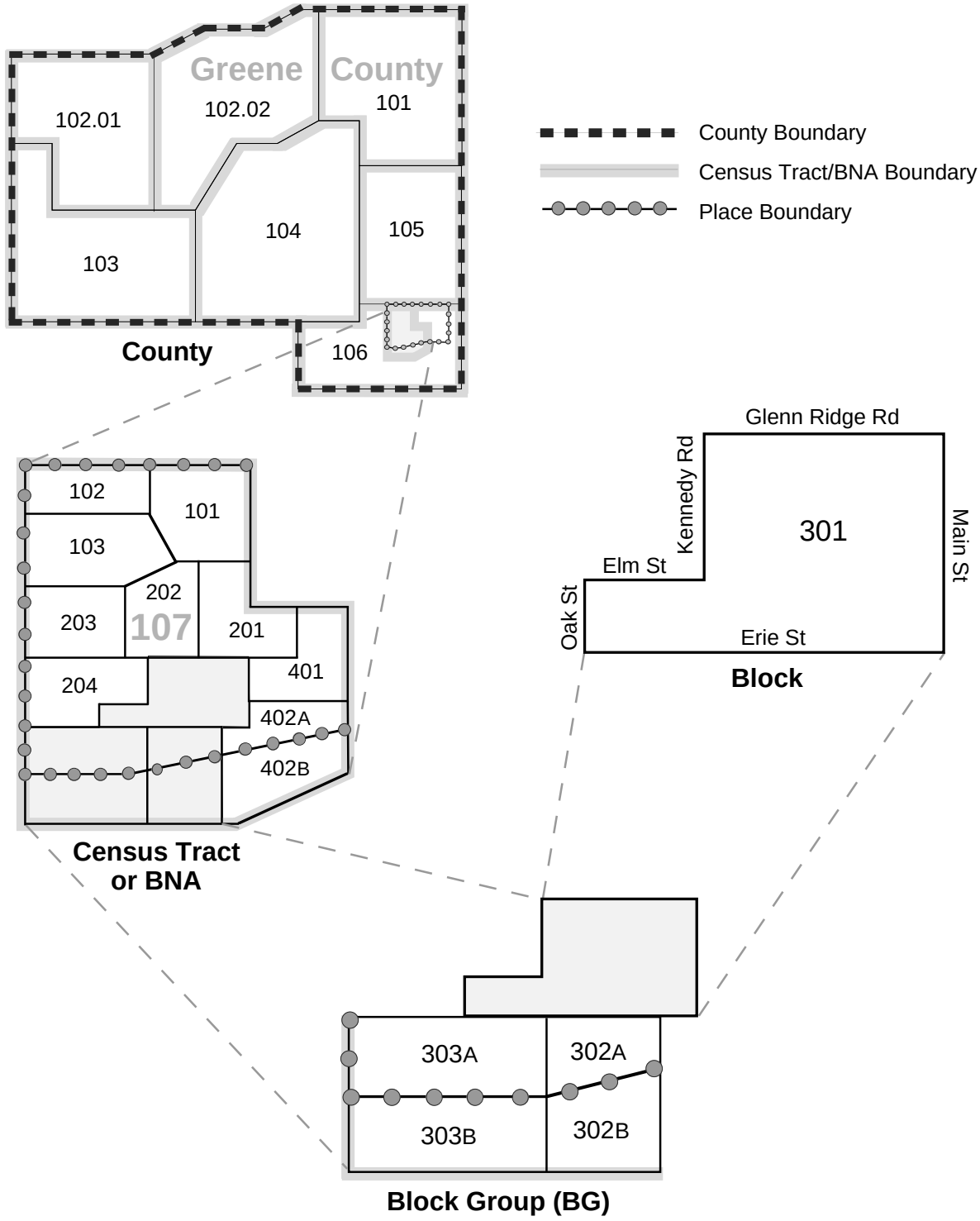
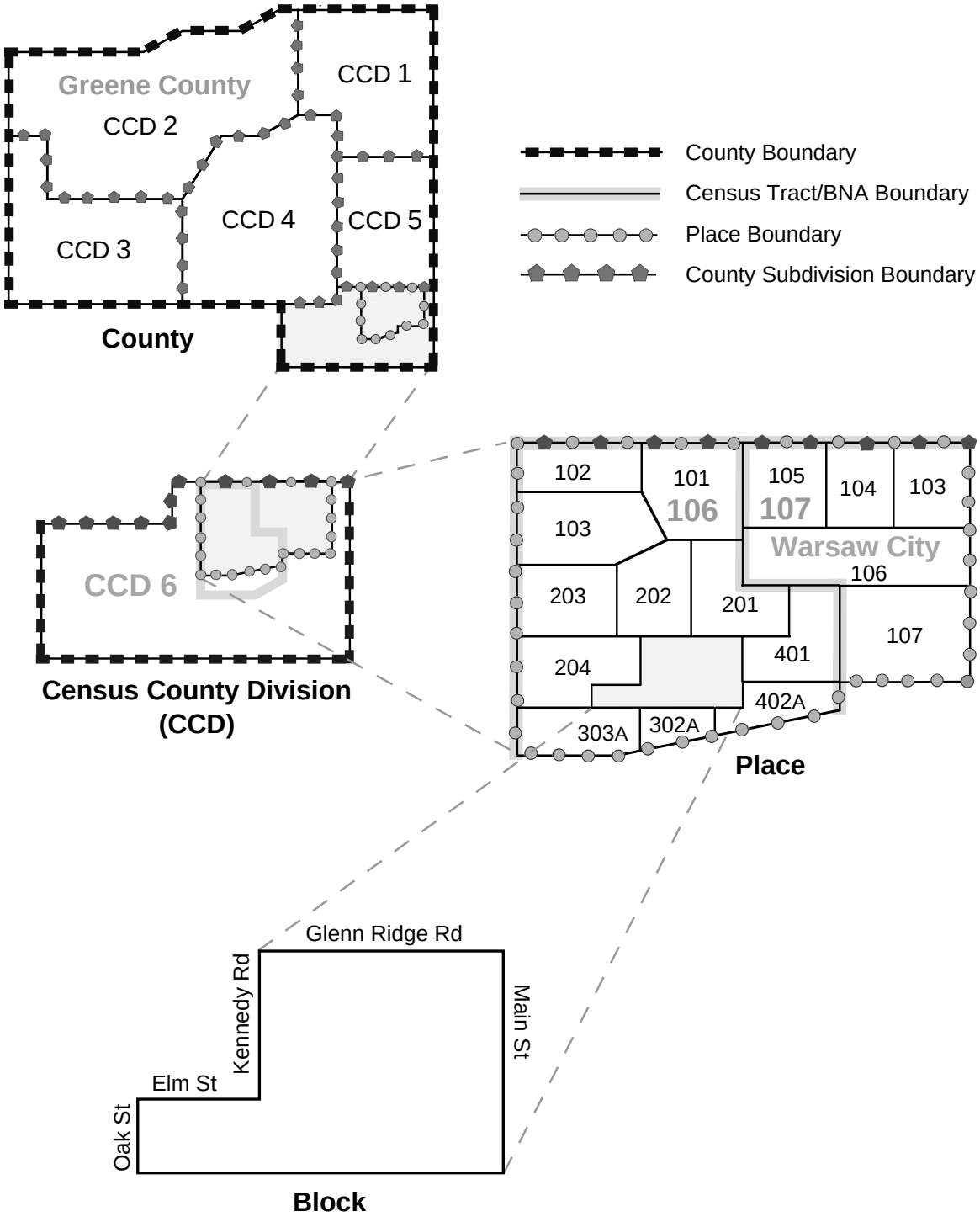


Figure 4-3 ***Geographic Relationships—Legal and Statistical Entities***



entities. However, the 1990 block numbers remain for new polygons created by the post-census boundary changes. The Census Bureau will not systematically update block numbering to reflect the current geographic boundaries until it prepares for the 2000 census.

Census Block Number Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
1	BLKL	Block Number, Current Left
1	BLKR	Block Number, Current Right
3	BLK90L	Block Number, 1990 Left
3	BLK90R	Block Number, 1990 Right
A	BLK90	Block Number, 1990
S	BLK00	Block Number, 2000 (currently contains 1990)

Census Block Codes

Land blocks

- BG Number 1 to 9—First character
- 01 to 97—Second and third characters
- Block numbers ending in 98 were not used.

Water blocks

- BG Number 0 to 9—First character
- 99—Second and third characters

All polygons have a non-blank basic 3-character census block number. The left- and right-side complete chain block numbers are not blank except where they are located along the outside edge of the county. The TIGER/Line® files do not contain geographic codes for the area outside of the county file. The TIGER/Line® files identify boundary complete chains by placing a 1 in the single-side segment field in Record Type 1.

Tabulation Block Suffix

- A to Y—Codes for land blocks with a suffix
- A to Y, a to y—Codes for water blocks with a suffix
- Z—Code for blocks assigned for the enumeration of crews-of-vessels

- Examples:

  102— Census block with a blank tabulation block suffix (this block has not been split by any tabulation boundary); the tabulation block number is the same as the collection block number

  102B— Census block with the tabulation block suffix B

Census Tracts and Block Numbering Areas (BNAs)

Census Tracts Census tracts are geographic statistical entities within a county (or statistical equivalent of a county), and are defined by a committee of local data users. When first established, census tracts should have relatively homogeneous demographic characteristics. Generally, census tracts have a population size between 2,500 and 8,000 people, and average about 4,000 people. The committee of local data users can delineate census tracts for special land uses, such as military installations and American Indian reservations.

BNAs BNAs are statistical areas delineated by state agencies or the Census Bureau for counties without census tracts. The delineation of BNAs follows the same basic criteria as those for census tracts. Because BNAs appear more often in less populated counties, they may have fewer people than census tracts.

Numbering The TIGER/Line® files store census tract and BNA numbers in a 4-character basic number field and an optional 2-character suffix number field. In printed reports and on mapping products, the Census Bureau uses a decimal point (.) to separate the basic number from the suffix. However, in the TIGER/Line® files and STF data products, the decimal point is implied. The basic number and the suffix appear together in a single 6-character field in Record Types 1, 3, A, and S. A basic number smaller than 1000 will contain leading zeros. Leading zeros are shown on machine-readable products, but are not shown in printed reports and on census maps since leading zeros are not part of the basic number.

The TIGER/Line® files use the right-most two characters in the census tract/BNA field for the suffix. These two characters are blank if the census tract/BNA number does not have a suffix. Suffixes smaller than 10

have a leading zero. For example, census tract 0077.01 is shown as 007701 in the TIGER/Line® files.

The Census Bureau uses suffixes to help identify census tract changes for comparison purposes. Local census statistical areas committees (CSACs) have an opportunity to review the existing census tracts before each census. If a committee splits a census tract, the split parts usually retain the basic number, but receive different suffixes. In a few counties, the committees approve major changes to, and renumber, the census tracts. Changes to individual census tract boundaries usually do not result in census tract numbering changes.

The Census Bureau documents all changes to census tract boundaries and numbers in the TIGER/Census Tract Comparability File™ (1980-1990). Data users are cautioned to examine the census tract boundaries before making comparisons between past data and 1990 data.

Boundaries and Boundary Changes Census tract/BNA boundaries generally follow visible physical features and county boundaries. The census tract or BNA boundary may follow MCD and incorporated place boundaries in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and the New England States because the boundaries tend to be stable and locally known.

In a few rare instances, a census tract or BNA may consist of discontiguous areas. These discontiguous areas may occur where the census tracts are coextensive with all or parts of legal entities that are themselves discontiguous. Census tracts were last defined in preparation for the 1990 census. Census tracts/BNAs must nest within a county. New census tracts/BNAs were created to accommodate updates and corrections to county boundaries following the assignment of block numbers in 1988. This was necessary because existing 1990 census tracts were in place for the 1990 census and could not be shifted. At the request of some local CSACs, the Census Bureau resolved a number of census tract boundary discrepancies. This explains some of the less populated census tracts and the census tracts with basic numbers or suffixes that are seemingly out of range for the county.

The Census Bureau generally identified the revised census tracts/BNAs with a unique suffix ranging from .70 to .98 (e.g., 1234.98) so data users could easily determine which census tracts/BNAs were affected. The Census Bureau made these changes after the release of the TIGER/Line® Precensus Files, 1990. The census tract boundaries follow legal county boundaries as of January 1, 1990. Census tracts next will be defined for the 2000 census.

Relationship to Other Geographic Entities The census tracts and BNAs represent the same level of geography and share the same field in the TIGER/Line® files. Census tracts or BNAs entirely cover a county. A county contains either census tracts or BNAs, but not a combination of both. Census BGs and blocks are uniquely numbered within census tracts and BNAs.

Census Tract/BNA Code Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
1	CTBNAL	Census Tract/BNA Code, Current Left
1	CTBNAR	Census Tract/BNA Code, Current Right
3	CTBNA90L	Census Tract/BNA Code, 1990 Left
3	CTBNA90R	Census Tract/BNA Code, 1990 Right
A	CTBNA90	Census Tract/BNA Code, 1990
S	CTBNA00	Census Tract/BNA Code, 2000 (currently contains 1990)

Census Tract/BNA Codes

0001 to 9499—Basic number range for census tracts
9500 to 9989—Basic number range for BNAs
0000—Default basic number for census tracts/BNAs
01 to 98—Suffix codes for census tracts
85 to 98—Suffix codes for BNAs
blank—Suffix code for census tracts and BNAs without a suffix
99—Suffix code for crews-of-vessels census tracts/BNAs

All polygons have a non-blank census tract/BNA basic number. The left- and right-side complete chain census tract/BNA numbers are not blank except where they are located along the outside edge of the county boundary. The TIGER/Line® files do not contain geographic codes for the area

outside of the county file. The TIGER/Line® files identify the boundary complete chains by placing a 1 in the single-side segment field in Record Type 1.

The Census Bureau assigned a default census tract/BNA number of 0000 to some coastal and Great Lakes water rather than extend the census tract/BNA boundary into the Great Lakes or out to the three-mile limit. The Census Bureau closed off some census tract/BNA areas along the shoreline or just offshore, and assigned the default census tract/BNA and special block numbers to the offshore water areas.

Counties and Statistically Equivalent Entities

The first-order divisions of each state are counties for 48 states, parishes for Louisiana, and boroughs and census areas for Alaska. In addition, the Census Bureau treats the following entities as equivalents of counties for purposes of data presentation: independent cities in Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia; the portion of Yellowstone National Park in Montana; "District of Columbia" for the District of Columbia; municipios in Puerto Rico; and a variety of entities in the Pacific Island Territories.

The TIGER/Line® files contain several 3-character numeric fields identifying the FIPS county code for the 1990 census and the FIPS county codes for current entities. Each individual TIGER/Line® file contains state and county code fields to uniquely identify its records. See Appendix A for a list of FIPS codes for county and county-equivalent areas.

County and County Equivalents Code Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
1	COUNTYL	FIPS County Code, Current Left
1	COUNTYR	FIPS County Code, Current Right
3	COUN90L	FIPS County Code, 1990 Left
3	COUN90R	FIPS County Code, 1990 Right
5	COUNTY	FIPS County Code, Current
7	COUNTY	FIPS County Code, Current
8	COUNTY	FIPS County Code, Current
9	COUNTY	FIPS County Code, Current
A	COUNTY	FIPS County Code, Current

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
C	COUNTY	FIPS County Code, Year
H	COUNTY	FIPS County Code, Current
I	COUNTY	FIPS County Code, Current
P	COUNTY	FIPS County Code, Current
R	COUNTY	FIPS County Code, Current
S	COUNTY	FIPS County Code, Current
S	COUNTYCU	FIPS County Code, Current

County Subdivisions

The 1995 TIGER/Line® files contain a 5-character numeric FIPS code field for county subdivisions. The 3-character numeric census code field has been dropped. The TIGER/Line® files use a single field to identify the two functional types (legal and statistical) of county subdivisions. Record Type C in the 1995 TIGER/Line® files contains all valid codes and entity names.

Legal Entities

Minor Civil Divisions (MCDs)

- MCDs are legally defined subcounty areas such as towns (in eight states) and townships. These occur in 28 states, Puerto Rico, and the Pacific Island Territories.
- Some states have incorporated places that are not part of any MCD. These places also serve as primary legal subdivisions and have a unique FIPS MCD code in addition to the FIPS place code. The TIGER/Line® files will show the same FIPS 55 code in the county subdivision field and the place field.
- In New York and Maine, American Indian reservations (AIRs) exist outside the jurisdiction of any town (MCD) and thus also serve as MCD-equivalent entities.

Statistical Entities

Census County Divisions (CCDs)

CCDs are areas delineated by state officials and the local CSACs for statistical purposes. CCD boundaries usually follow visible features

and in most cases, coincide with census tract or BNA boundaries. CCDs exist where:

1) There are no legally established minor civil divisions (MCDs).
2) The legally established MCDs do not have governmental or administrative purposes.
3) The boundaries of the MCDs change frequently.
4) The MCDs are not generally known to the public.

CCDs have been established for the following 21 states:

Alabama	Hawaii	Oregon
Arizona	Idaho	South Carolina
California	Kentucky	Tennessee
Colorado	Montana	Texas
Delaware	Nevada	Utah
Florida	New Mexico	Washington
Georgia	Oklahoma	Wyoming

Census Subareas

Census subareas are subdivisions of boroughs and census areas, the county equivalent entities in Alaska. The state of Alaska and the Census Bureau cooperatively delineated the census subareas to serve as the statistical equivalents of MCDs.

Unorganized Territories (UTs)

For states with partial MCD coverage, the Census Bureau defines UTs for the non-MCD area. UTs are assigned county subdivision codes and names. Ten states have UTs:

Arkansas	Minnesota
Iowa	North Carolina
Kansas *(only for 1990)*	North Dakota
Louisiana	South Dakota
Maine	Indiana *(only for current)*

County Subdivision Code Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
1	FMCDL	FIPS 55 Code (MCD/CCD) Left, Current
1	FMCDR	FIPS 55 Code (MCD/CCD) Right, Current
3	FMCD90L	FIPS 55 Code (MCD/CCD), 1990 Left

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
3	FMCD90R	FIPS 55 Code (MCD/CCD), 1990 Right
A	FMCD	FIPS 55 Code (MCD/CCD), 1990
C	FIPS	FIPS 55 Code, Year
S	FMCD	FIPS 55 Code (MCD/CCD), Current

The Census Bureau assigned a default county subdivision number of 00000 in some coastal and Great Lakes water where county subdivisions did not extend into the Great Lakes or out to the three-mile limit. Similarly, the Census Bureau closed some census tract/BNA boundaries along the shoreline or just offshore, and assigned the default census tract/BNA and special block numbers to the offshore areas.

Congressional Districts

The TIGER/Line® files contain 2-character numeric code fields for the current (104th), 106th and 108th congressional districts. Congressional districts are numbered uniquely within state. The fields for the 106th and 108th congressional districts are blank. The current (104th) congressional district field always has a value other than blank for all polygons.

Congressional District Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
A	CD106	Congressional District Number, 106th
A	CD108	Congressional District Number, 108th
S	CDCU	Congressional District Number, Current (104th)

Congressional District Codes–104th Congress

01 to 52—Congressional district codes
00—*At large* (single district for state)
98—Nonvoting delegate
99—No representation in Congress

Consolidated Cities

A consolidated city is a legally incorporated place that has consolidated its government with a county or minor civil division (MCD) and contains one or more separately incorporated places. The county or MCD

and the separately incorporated places within the consolidated city continue to exist. The Census Bureau classifies the separately incorporated places within the consolidated city as place entities and creates a separate place (remainder) record for the portion of the consolidated city not within any other place. Refer to the *Places* section in this chapter for additional information. Consolidated cities are represented in the TIGER/Line® files by a 5-character numeric FIPS code. Record Type C has the complete list of valid codes and entity names.

Consolidated City Code Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
C	FIPS	FIPS 55 Code, Year
S	FCCITY	FIPS 55 Code (Consolidated City), Current

Crews-of-Vessels

Crews-of-vessels represent the population on military (including Coast Guard) and merchant ships; they do not include the inhabitants of houseboats or marinas. The census population tables show the vessels' population in a unique census tract/BNA and census block. A crews-of-vessels census tract/BNA and block appear on census maps as an anchor symbol with the census tract/BNA and block numbers, rather than as a delimited area. The location of the anchor symbol is arbitrary and reflects neither the location of the vessel(s) at the time of the census, nor the location of the crews-of-vessels census tract/BNA and block as it appears in the TIGER/Line® file. See the *Census Tracts and Block Numbering Areas* and the *Census Blocks* sections in this chapter for record locations and field names.

Crews-of-vessels census tract/BNA numbers use the same basic census tract/BNA number as the nearby land census tract/BNA with which the vessel is associated, plus a suffix of 99, shown in decimal notation. For example, census tract 1234.99 is shown as 123499 in the TIGER/Line® files and other machine-readable products. Crews-of-vessels block numbers use the same basic block number as the associated land block in that census tract/BNA, plus a block suffix of Z; for example, block 901Z in census tract 1234.99. In such a situation, the related land block also receives a suffix, even though it may not be split by a boundary; for example, the addition of crews-of-vessels associated with the

block 901 creates blocks 901A and 901Z. The Census Bureau does not use the Z census block suffix for any purpose other than the crews-of-vessels.

Either the left or right census tract/BNA and census block identified in Record Type 1 will indicate the location to which the population is assigned. The census tract/BNA and census block for crews-of-vessels form an extremely small, triangular-shaped polygon requiring only one complete chain with a start node equal to the end node and two intermediate shape points. Based on the coordinates found on Record Types 1 and 2, the location of the census block is on the shore inside the land block with the same 3-digit collection block number, not in the water as shown on the census maps. The Census Bureau defines as zero, the area measurement enclosed by the special crews-of-vessels census tract/BNA and block.

Metropolitan Areas

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) designates metropolitan areas to serve as statistical areas around the larger population centers of the United States and Puerto Rico. Basically, a metropolitan area must contain an urbanized area delineated by the Census Bureau or an incorporated place with a population of 50,000 or more. Metropolitan areas consist of whole counties or county equivalents in most states; in New England the OMB defines metropolitan areas using MCDs. The metropolitan area consists of the central county, county equivalent, or MCD (in New England) and additional areas based on OMB criteria related to population density, population growth, and commuting data.

There are three types of metropolitan areas. If a metropolitan area has a total population of less than 1,000,000, the area is designated a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Metropolitan areas with a population of 1,000,000 or greater qualify for designation as a Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) that is composed of smaller Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs). This designation is not automatic; the OMB solicits local opinion to designate CMSAs and their component PMSAs.

The TIGER/Line® files contain two different 4-character numeric fields to identify the FIPS code for each metropolitan area and to differentiate CMSAs and MSAs from PMSAs. The FIPS codes are from FIPS PUB 8. If a value exists in the PMSA field identifying a PMSA, then the CMSAMSA field also must be filled; this combination identifies the associated CMSA and PMSA combinations. A blank PMSA field indicates the code in the CMSAMSA field is for the MSA.

Metropolitan Area Code Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
C	CMSAMSA	FIPS Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area/ Metropolitan Statistical Area Code, Year
C	PMSA	FIPS Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area Code, Year
S	CMSAMSA	FIPS Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area/ Metropolitan Statistical Area Code, Current
S	PMSA	FIPS Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area Code, Current

Metropolitan Area Codes Metropolitan areas are identified using the 4-character numeric FIPS codes. Record Type C in the 1995 TIGER/Line® files contains all the valid codes and entity names for CMSAs, MSAs, and PMSAs. The current metropolitan areas represent the OMB designations as of June 30, 1995, and not necessarily the metropolitan areas for which the Census Bureau tabulated data in the 1990 census. Record Type C shows 1990 codes and names that reflect the 1990 metropolitan area tabulations.

Places

The TIGER/Line® files use a single field to identify places that are legal entities, and places that are statistical entities. The FIPS place code uniquely identifies a place within a state.

Legal Entities

Incorporated Places

Incorporated places are legal entities incorporated under individual state law. Places may extend across county and county subdivision

boundaries. An incorporated place can be a city, town, borough, or village. But, for census purposes, incorporated places exclude:

- The boroughs in Alaska (treated as county equivalents)
- Towns in the New England States, New York, and Wisconsin (treated as MCDs)
- The boroughs in New York (treated as MCDs)
- The *remainder* portions of consolidated cities (statistical equivalents of incorporated places)

Statistical Entities

Census Designated Places (CDPs)

CDPs are recognizable communities or concentrations of population that are not incorporated places. CDPs may have a locally recognized name, but do not have legally defined corporate limits or corporate powers. The Census Bureau defines CDPs in cooperation with state officials, AIR officials, and local data users, for data presentation. In Puerto Rico, CDPs are called comunidades or zonas urbana.

Consolidated City (Remainder) Portions

Consolidated city (remainder) portions refer to the areas of a consolidated city not included in another incorporated place. For example, Columbus city, GA, is a consolidated city that includes the separately incorporated municipality of Bibb City town. The area of the consolidated city that is not in Bibb City town is assigned to Columbus city (remainder). The name always includes the "(remainder)" identifier.

Legally incorporated places and CDPs are mutually exclusive and are identified in the same TIGER/Line® field. Users of earlier versions of the TIGER/Line® files without Record Type C will need to consult the publication GRF-N, FIPS PUB 55-3, or the Census Bureau's TIGER/GICS™ to identify the list of valid codes and entity names, and to differentiate between the legal and statistical entities.

Dependent and Independent Places Depending on the state, incorporated places are either dependent within, or independent of, county subdivisions, or there is a mixture of dependent and independent places in the state. Dependent places are part of the county subdivision; the county subdivision code of the place is the same as that of

the underlying county subdivision(s), but is different from the FIPS place code. Independent places are separate from the adjoining county subdivisions and have their own county subdivision code (or codes if the place lies in multiple counties). These places also serve as primary county subdivisions. The TIGER/Line® files will show the same FIPS 55 code in the FIPS county subdivision code field and the FIPS place code field for independent places. The only exception is if the place is independent of the MCDs in a state in which the FIPS MCD codes are in the 90000 range. Then, the FIPS MCD and FIPS place codes will differ. CDPs and remainder portions of consolidated cities (Class C8) always are dependent within county subdivisions.

Corporate Corridors and Offset Corporate Boundaries A corporate corridor is a narrow, linear part of an incorporated place (or in a very few instances, another legal entity). The corporate corridor includes the street and/or right-of-way, or a portion of the street and/or right-of-way within the incorporated place. It excludes from the incorporated place those structures such as houses, apartments, or businesses, that front along the street or road; see Figure 4-4.

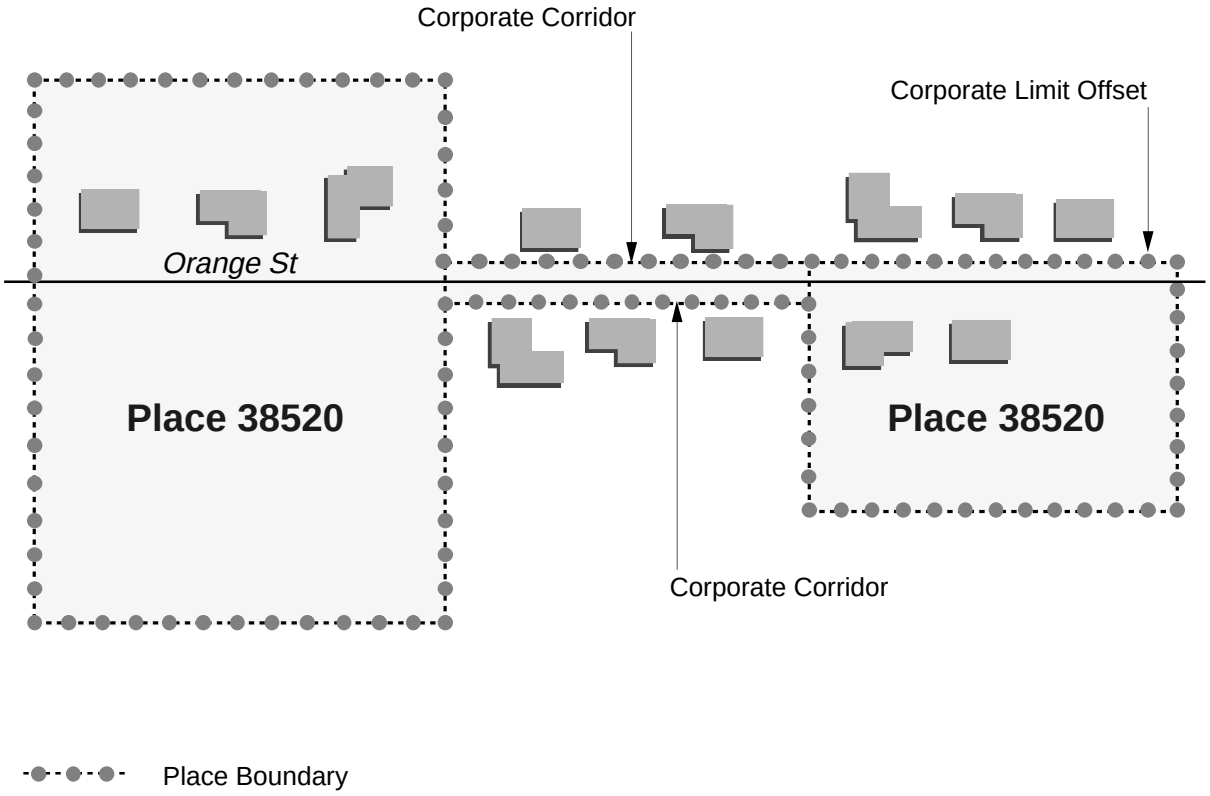
A corporate limit offset boundary exists where the incorporated place lies on only one side of the street, and may include all or part of the street and/or the right-of-way. It does not include the houses or land that adjoin the side of the street with the corporate limit offset boundary. It is possible to have two or more corporate limit offset boundaries in the same street or right-of-way.

In order to reduce the overprinting of symbols on the printed or plotted census maps, a corporate corridor was shown in earlier map versions by only one symbol along its center line rather than by a symbol that followed its outer boundary. Corporate limit offset boundaries use the same map symbology as non-offset boundaries. Figure 4-4 shows the place-level mapping symbols for corporate corridors and corporate offset limits.

To facilitate address coding, the street name and address ranges are generally duplicated on complete chains with a CFCC of F11 (nonvisible offset boundary) or F12 (nonvisible corporate corridor). The duplicate

Figure 4-4 ***Corporate Corridors—Overview***

This diagram, using symbology typical of a census map, shows a corporate corridor linking the two larger areas of Place 38520 (shading has been added to highlight the actual area within the corporate limits). Part of the corporate limit along Orange St is an offset boundary. A corporate limit offset covers only one side of the street or right-of-way, not the entire street or right-of-way, as is the case with a corporate corridor.



street names for the F11 and F12 features are on Record Type 5 and the duplicate address ranges are on Record Type 6. However, Record Type 1 will not indicate that the street or right-of-way lies within a corporate corridor or offset boundary, or that the address ranges lie outside, and are encoded on either side, of the corporate corridor or offset boundary. When data users find duplicate address ranges where one of the duplicates is on a complete chain with a CFCC of F11 or F12, they should use this address range for address geocoding rather than the range on the street feature that has a CFCC beginning with *A* (see Figure 4-5). Likewise, use the street name and address ranges on the related street feature (CFCC beginning with *A*) for mapping or vehicle routing.

Incorporated Place/CDP Code Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
1	FPLL	FIPS 55 Code (Place/CDP), Current Left
1	FPLR	FIPS 55 Code (Place/CDP), Current Right
3	FPL90L	FIPS 55 Code (Place/CDP), 1990 Left
3	FPL90R	FIPS 55 Code (Place/CDP), 1990 Right
A	FPL	FIPS 55 Code (Place/CDP), 1990
C	FIPS	FIPS 55 Code, Year
S	FPL	FIPS 55 Code (Place/CDP), Current

School Districts

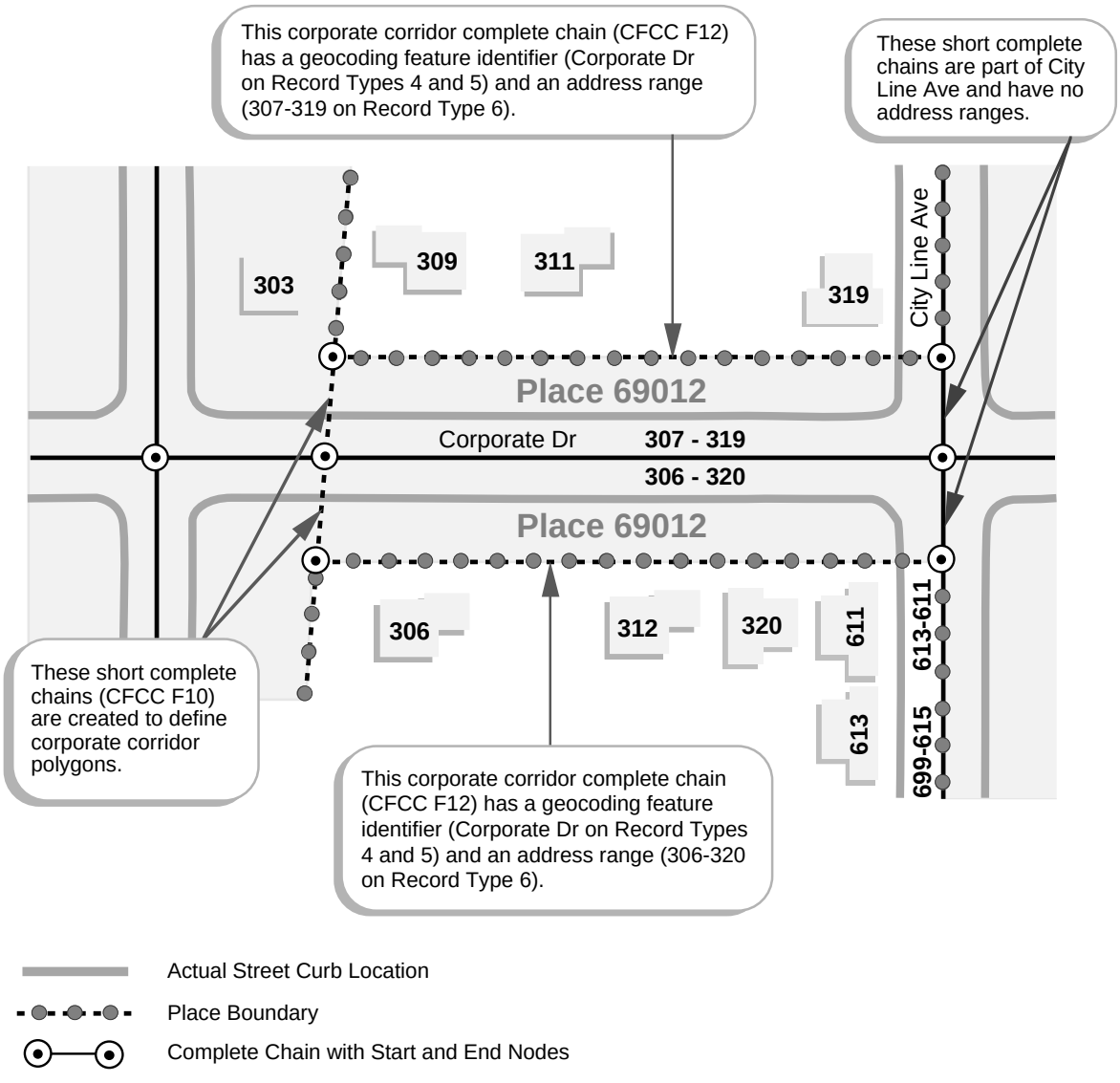
The Census Bureau initially released the school district codes in the 1992 TIGER/Line® files as part of the National School District Program sponsored by the US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. This program was designed to provide 1990 census data tabulations for school districts. The program continues to be updated and the updates are reflected in the subsequent versions of the TIGER/Line® files, including the 1995 TIGER/Line® files.

Below is a listing of the states that had school district changes in the 1995 TIGER/Line® files:

Alabama	North Carolina	Illinois	Tennessee	Montana
California	Oklahoma	Maine	Vermont	New York
Idaho	South Dakota	Missouri	Arkansas	Ohio
Kentucky	Virginia	New Jersey	Georgia	South Carolina
Mississippi	Arizona	North Dakota	Indiana	Texas
Nebraska	Colorado	Oregon	Massachusetts	Washington

Figure 4-5 ***Corporate Corridors—Detail View***

This diagram shows a detailed view of a corporate corridor that runs along Corporate Dr. The complete chains with the census feature class code (CFCC) F12 form the corporate corridor and have geocoding address ranges that mirror the address ranges of Corporate Dr. The geocoding address ranges exist so structures are coded to the correct block and place. For example, 311 Corporate Dr is located outside the corporate limits. Using the address range from Corporate Dr to geocode the structure will incorrectly code the structure to Place 69012. The corporate corridor (CFCC F12) splits City Line Ave at one end of the corridor and the boundary feature (F10) at the other end, creating four short complete chains. The Census TIGER® data base software compensates by moving the address ranges from these short complete chains located inside the corporate corridor to complete chains outside the corridor so they geocode to the correct geographic entity.



The program identified three possible levels of school districts representing different segments of the school-age population (elementary, intermediate, and secondary) and a *unified* category to identify those school districts that represented all grade levels.

The elementary, intermediate, and secondary levels of a school district can overlap each other because they represent different segments of the school-age population; for example, an intermediate school district could cover parts of several elementary school districts. The 1995 TIGER/Line® files use separate fields to accommodate for the overlap and may not contain a code for all grade levels.

The 1995 TIGER/Line® files contain a *unified* school district code for those school districts where all levels are represented in a single district. The elementary, intermediate, and secondary school district code fields are blank if there is a unified school district code. Exceptions exist for the state of Hawaii and the five boroughs of New York city; New York city and Hawaii are each single school districts. The National School District Program has mapped Attendance Zones for each school in these two districts.

School districts may cut through existing census blocks. In such instances, the Census Bureau created new complete chains and GT-polygons. However, the school district boundaries did not create new blocks. The tabulation blocks may contain more than one polygon, and each polygon may have a different school district code. The block parts/polygons allocated to the different school districts do not have separate tabulation block numbers. Thus, a school district in the TIGER/Line® files is a representation of the area, not the actual area.

The 1995 TIGER/Line® files store the school district codes in a set of four, 5-character fields. All codes consist of numeric characters. The value, 9999, is a pseudo-school district code assigned to non-water blocks for which the National School District Program does not report a school district. Some large water areas have a pseudo-school district code of 99998.

School District Code Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
A	SDELM	School District Code, Elementary School
A	SDMID	School District Code, Middle School
A	SDSEC	School District Code, Secondary School
A	SDUNI	School District Code, Unified District

School District Codes The US Department of Education's Common Core Data File contains the school district names associated with the codes. The TIGER/Line® files contain only the codes, not the names of the school districts. For the school district names, contact:

Lee Hoffman
Survey and Cooperative Systems Group, Rm. 410
National Center for Education Statistics
555 New Jersey Ave, NW—Washington, DC 20208
Phone: (202) 219-1621

States and Statistically Equivalent Entities

In addition to the 50 States, the Census Bureau treats the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Island Territories (American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands) as the statistical equivalent of a state for the purpose of data presentation.

1995 TIGER/Line® files were produced for the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Pacific Island Territories. The 1994 TIGER/Line® files are included for American Samoa because its files have not been updated since 1994. See Appendix A for a list of the FIPS state codes.

State Code Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
1	STATEL	FIPS State Code, Current Left
1	STATER	FIPS State Code, Current Right
3	STATE90L	FIPS State Code, 1990 Left
3	STATE90R	FIPS State Code, 1990 Right
5	STATE	FIPS State Code, Current
7	STATE	FIPS State Code, Current

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
8	STATE	FIPS State Code, Current
9	STATE	FIPS State Code, Current
A	STATE	FIPS State Code, Current
C	STATE	FIPS State Code, Year
H	STATE	FIPS State Code, Current
I	STATE	FIPS State Code, Current
P	STATE	FIPS State Code, Current
R	STATE	FIPS State Code, Current
S	STATE	FIPS State Code, Current
S	STATECU	FIPS State Code, Current

Sub-Minor Civil Divisions (Sub-MCDs)

Sub-MCDs are legally defined subdivisions of a minor civil division. Sub-MCDs called sub-barrios are found only in Puerto Rico. The TIGER/Line® files contain the 5-character FIPS 55 code field for sub-MCDs. The 2-numeric character census code field has been dropped.

Sub-MCD Code Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
1	FSMCDL	FIPS 55 Code (Sub-MCD), Current Left
1	FSMCDR	FIPS 55 Code (Sub-MCD), Current Right
C	FIPS	FIPS 55 Code, Year
S	FSMCD	FIPS 55 Code (Sub-MCD), Current

Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ)

The Census Bureau collected and tabulated data for approximately 200,000 traffic analysis zones (TAZs) within approximately 300 Census Transportation Planning Package (CTPP) areas for the 1990 decennial census. The TAZs are established by metropolitan planning organizations. TAZs were not shown in any 1990 Census TIGER® extracts. The Census Bureau subsequently inserted the TAZs into the Census TIGER® data base and began extracting them starting with the 1994 TIGER/Line® files. Upon insertion, contiguity edits were performed to identify inconsistencies in the current delineations. The Census Bureau did not revise any TAZ problems discovered during the insertion process because production of the CTPP data preceded the insertion of the TAZs into the

Census TIGER® data base and the geography had to remain consistent with the data.

All CTPP areas are identified by a pseudo-metropolitan area (MA) 4-digit code. A 6-character alphanumeric code on each record identifies the individual TAZs. CTPP and TAZ entities exist only on Record Type A; there is no Record Type C information for these areas.

TAZ Code Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
A	CTPP	Census Transportation Planning Package Area Code
A	TAZ	Traffic Analysis Zone Code

Urbanized Areas (UAs)

A UA consists of at least one central place and the adjacent densely settled surrounding territory that together have a minimum population of 50,000 people. The densely settled surrounding territory generally consists of an area with continuous residential development and an overall population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile. The TIGER/Line® files identify UAs with a 4-character numeric census code. See Appendix G for a list of UA names and codes.

All polygons that have a UA code (other than blank) will have an urban/rural designation (U/R) flag equal to U. See the section, *Urban/Rural Designation,* in this chapter.

UA Code Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
A	UA	Census Urbanized Area Code
C	UA	Census Urbanized Area Code, Year

Urban/Rural (U/R) Designation

The Census Bureau defines *urban* for the 1990 census as consisting of all territory and population in UAs and in the urban portion of places with 2,500 or more people located outside of the UAs.

The Census Bureau distinguishes the urban and rural population within incorporated places whose boundaries contain large, sparsely populated, or even unpopulated area. These extended cities have either 25 percent of their land area, or at least 25 square miles, classified as sparsely settled. The sparsely settled area must consist of at least one group of one or more contiguous census blocks. Each group must be at least five square miles in area and have an overall population density of less than 100 people per square mile. Polygons in the group of sparsely settled blocks will have a flag equal to R; the densely populated blocks will have a flag equal to U.

Incorporated places (based on 1990 census boundaries) with both urban- and rural-flagged polygons are extended cities. For the 1990 census, the Census Bureau defined 280 incorporated places as extended cities. Extended cities exist both inside and outside of UAs.

The TIGER/Line® files include a 1-character U/R flag:
R— Rural, not urban
U— Urban, in a UA or an urban place

The Census Bureau assigns the U/R flag to tabulation blocks, so all GT-polygons within a block have the same U/R flag. All blocks that have a UA code (other than blank) will have an U/R flag equal to U. Blocks in places that qualify as urban places, but are not in a UA, do not have a UA code; they do have a U/R flag equal to U. Rural areas are identified by the R flag and will not have a UA code.

U/R Flag Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
A	URBFLAG	Urban Flag

Voting Districts (VTDs)

For the 1990 census, the term VTD replaced the 1980 census term *election precinct*. A VTD is any of a variety of areas (for example, election districts, precincts, legislative districts, and wards) defined by state and local governments for the purpose of conducting elections. The 1990 VTD codes in the TIGER/Line® files were supplied by the state governments in response to the requirements of the 1990 Census Redistricting Data Program. The boundaries of the VTDs recorded in the TIGER/Line® files may represent

pseudo-VTDs. The states may have relocated the boundaries of the actual VTDs to a nearby block boundary because they were required to submit VTDs that followed 1990 census block boundaries. States had the option of participating in the program on a county-by-county, or even a partial county basis.

The following states did not participate in the VTD program:

- Kentucky
- Mississippi
- Montana
- Oregon

The following states had partial VTD coverage during the 1990 redistricting program:

• Alabama	VTDs for 59 of the 67 counties
• Georgia	VTDs for 158 of the 159 counties
• Idaho	VTDs for 32 of the 44 counties
• North Carolina	VTDs for 48 of the 100 counties
• Ohio	VTDs for 55 of the 88 counties
• South Dakota	VTDs for 65 of the 66 counties
• Texas	VTDs for 87 of the 254 counties
• Wisconsin	VTDs for 70 of the 72 counties

The VTDs are represented by a 4-character alphanumeric code. Record Type C in the 1995 TIGER/Line® files contains all valid codes and entity names. A VTD code equal to ZZZZ is used to designate coastal water areas excluded from the VTDs. Some states did extend VTD coverage into water areas. Blank space indicates that a VTD is not assigned to an area.

VTD Code Record Locations

Record Type	*Field Name*	*Description*
3	VTDL	Census Voting District Code, 1990 Left
3	VTDR	Census Voting District Code, 1990 Right
C	VTD	Census Voting District Code, Year